

Meekins, Tanya

From: Thieman, Karla - OSEC <Karla.Thieman@osec.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 6:45 AM
To: Hengst, Benjamin
Subject: Re: Morning Agriculture: RFS proposal gives corn ethanol 2016 boost — Fisheries reauthorization debate expected Monday — COOL dispute to heat up again

Our comms shops have been talking, I think I have the not final.

FYI as you can see our blender pump stuff was leaked. I guess better that than the RVOs. We had to give appropriators heads up yesterday and sent the budget amendment to hill and wonder if that's not where it came from.

From: Hengst, Benjamin [mailto:Hengst.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 06:25 AM
To: Thieman, Karla - OSEC
Subject: Re: Morning Agriculture: RFS proposal gives corn ethanol 2016 boost - Fisheries reauthorization debate expected Monday - COOL dispute to heat up again

when I get in I'll send out our roll-out materials

From: Hengst, Benjamin
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 6:25 AM
To: Thieman, Karla - OSEC
Subject: Re: Morning Agriculture: RFS proposal gives corn ethanol 2016 boost - Fisheries reauthorization debate expected Monday - COOL dispute to heat up again

Yes, we got all sorts of crazy inquiries yesterday. The politico reporter is going to have some interesting talks with his sources.

From: Thieman, Karla - OSEC <Karla.Thieman@osec.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 6:24 AM
To: Hengst, Benjamin
Subject: Fw: Morning Agriculture: RFS proposal gives corn ethanol 2016 boost - Fisheries reauthorization debate expected Monday - COOL dispute to heat up again

FYI on story #1. Odd.

From: Schwarz, Cullen - OC
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 05:56 AM
To: TJV; Harden, Krysta - OSEC; Kiel, Alyn - OC; Baenig, Brian - OSEC; Herrick, Matthew - OC; Thieman, Karla - OSEC; Britton, Joe - OSEC; Oden, Bianca - OSEC; Christenson, Daniel - OSEC; Batta, Todd - OSEC; Cochran, Catherine - OC
Subject: FW: Morning Agriculture: RFS proposal gives corn ethanol 2016 boost - Fisheries reauthorization debate expected Monday - COOL dispute to heat up again

From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 5:56:37 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Schwarz, Cullen - OC

Subject: Morning Agriculture: RFS proposal gives corn ethanol 2016 boost - Fisheries reauthorization debate expected Monday - COOL dispute to heat up again

By Chase Purdy | 5/29/15 5:45 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén, Jenny Hopkinson, Jason Huffman, Kevin Robillard and Victoria Guida

RFS PROPOSAL GIVES CORN ETHANOL 2016 BOOST: The EPA is expected this morning to issue its proposed mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard for 2014 through 2016, putting the volume of corn ethanol blended into the gasoline pool at 15 billion gallons for 2016, sources tell POLITICO. That figure is the maximum allowed for corn ethanol annually under the law.

At the same time, the EPA is expected to propose an overall biofuels volume mandate that falls short of the statutory levels Congress prescribed for all three years. Corn ethanol makes up by far the biggest share of the U.S. biofuels mandates, although the program was designed to include ever higher levels of advanced biofuels, such as cellulosic ethanol. By putting the corn ethanol mandate for 2016 at 15 billion gallons or even close to that figure, the EPA would be handing a victory to the corn ethanol industry that has been in limbo since an initial EPA proposal for 2014 that fell short of what producers had expected under the law. And it would appear to be a tacit recognition by the EPA that cellulosic ethanol is far from reaching the levels that lawmakers had plotted for it years ago. In giving the boost to corn ethanol, the EPA is expected to take into account higher projected gasoline consumption and expanded infrastructure for biofuels.

Good timing: Also this morning, the Agriculture Department is expected to announce \$100 million in new federal assistance for blender pumps, which the industry has said would help expand the market for corn ethanol.

We're tracking all of these ethanol developments today. Check back here for more as it comes:

<http://politico.pro/1kvUYnG>

HAPPY FRIDAY, MAY 29! Welcome to Morning Ag, where your host recently rewatched that iconic 1999 Will Smith "Wild Wild West" MTV Video Music Awards performance. He launched the whole thing by riding a horse into the arena! Relive history: <http://bit.ly/1dA9ddS> Are there any ranchers out there who listen to this to get pumped? You know the deal: Thoughts, news, tips? Send them to cpurdy@politico.com or [@chasepurdy](https://twitter.com/chasepurdy).

Follow the whole team at [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag)

FISHERIES REAUTHORIZATION DEBATE EXPECTED MONDAY: House floor debate over a bill that would reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act - the law that governs marine fisheries management in federal waters - will take place Monday, sources tell MA.

H.R. 1335, introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and co-sponsored by three Republicans, is not without its detractors. The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would weaken the law, creating a loophole that removes reasonable time limits on species rebuilding requirements and exempting hundreds of species from annual catch limits, say the Environmental Defense Fund and 35 other environmental groups in a letter sent to House members. In May, the White House also issued a statement expressing concern with the bill, which came just a month after a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report showed overfishing has hit all-time lows. Read the letter here:

<http://bit.ly/1d28bpX> The White House statement: <http://1.usa.gov/1PQCdiu> And check out the bill:

<http://1.usa.gov/1eAsJqP>

COOL DISPUTE TO HEAT UP AGAIN: The World Trade Organization's Dispute Settlement Body today will rubber-stamp the Appellate Body's decision faulting U.S. country-of-origin labeling requirements for meat. Canada and Mexico could follow by immediately tossing out their first estimates of how much they've been hurt by the policy, which could run as high as \$2 billion a year. This would set the stage for a two-month-long arbitration over that number, after which the two countries would be allowed to raise tariffs to recoup their

losses. In the meantime, Congress will consider repealing or modifying the underlying legislation to head off retaliation altogether.

Bianca Healy, a spokeswoman for Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, would not speak directly to whether Ottawa would launch retaliatory proceedings immediately following the meeting. "Canada will seek authority from the WTO to use retaliatory measures on U.S. agricultural and non-agricultural products," she said in an email. "Our government is following developments in the U.S. closely, but we fully intend to continue with the retaliatory process until the U.S. has implemented a legislative fix that repeals COOL."

FARM BUREAU TAKES STAND AGAINST COOL: Now that retaliation is on the table, the American Farm Bureau Federation has officially endorsed legislation from House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway that would repeal COOL for beef, pork and poultry. "While we were hopeful that WTO would have found COOL to be legal, it is now clear that we are far better off with no mandatory labeling for beef, pork and chicken, which should end threats of retaliation by our two closest trading partners," Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman said in a statement. This is consistent with previous statements by the group expressing a desire to avoid retaliation, even if it meant repeal.

CLINTON: GET THE RFS 'BACK ON TRACK': Back to the RFS. Hillary Clinton used an op-ed in the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette on Thursday to throw her support behind the Renewable Fuel Standard, but she also called for improvements in the program to reflect the nation's changing energy landscape. Clinton argued that "we have to get the RFS back on track in a way that provides investors with the certainty they need, protects consumers, improves access to E15, E85, and biodiesel blends, and effectively drives the development of cellulosic and other advanced biofuels," she wrote.

As a senator, Clinton voted against creating the RFS in 2005, citing concerns about feed prices, but she voted in favor of an expansion in 2007. Clinton ended up placing third in the 2008 Iowa caucuses. She has recently made outreach on biofuels a key part of her campaign's Iowa strategy, including holding a private meeting in April that left biofuels advocates heartened. Read her column here: <http://bit.ly/1G3Kz1t>

Not mentioned in Clinton's piece: Ethanol.

INVESTIGATIVE ARTICLE SHOWS LOBBYIST'S HAND IN AG GAG LAW: It's common practice for registered lobbyists to contribute legislative language, but rarely does the American public get to see behind that curtain. An article published Thursday by The Intercept, a new investigative news service, identifies Dan Steenson, a lobbyist for the Idaho Dairymen's Association, as being a major architect of legislation introduced by Republican state Sen. Jim Patrick that threatens a year in jail and fines of up to \$5,000 for individuals who record abuses on farms after lying on employment applications about ties to animal rights groups or news organizations. The so-called ag-gag bill "sailed through committee within days and was signed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter on Feb. 28," according to the publication.

In response to a request for comment from Pro Ag, Steenson said, "The article gives the incorrect impression that I did not disclose my role as an attorney in drafting the legislation. While I do register as a lobbyist as required by Idaho law in order to explain the legal aspects of legislation I draft, my role is more technical than the article seems to suggest." The full story here: <http://bit.ly/1FFYYxD>

AARP ASKS N.C. GOVERNOR TO VETO 'AG-GAG' BILL: The North Carolina chapter of the AARP has taken to Twitter to urge N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory to veto a piece of legislation that would make it easier for agriculture companies to win punitive damages from employees who shoot video of their operations without authorization and release it to the public. See the AARP tweet here: <http://bit.ly/1AwuVcO>

GYLLENHAAL TO HOST D.C. URBAN FARM EVENT: Hollywood actor Jake Gyllenhaal will host a "greening of Washington" event next week, drawing 250 notable foodies and government movers and shakers, reports POLITICO's KGB File's Kate Glassman Bennett. Word on the street is that D.C. councilmembers and possibly Mayor Muriel Bowser will gather at an "urban farm" at the corner of New Jersey Avenue and K Street in Northwest for a locally sourced feast - served family-style after a cocktail hour featuring Virginia wine dispensed from a vintage Airstream trailer, costing \$600 for a VIP ticket, and prepared by seven celebrity chefs including D.C. chefs Spike Mendelsohn and Mike Isabella, both former "Top Chef" contestants. The money

goes to DC Greens, an organization that champions food education and food policy. Get more political dish over at The KGB File: <http://politi.co/1AAyLRU>

KENTUCKY AG COMMISSIONER TO DECIDE ON RECOUNT: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner James Comer will wait until this afternoon to announce whether he plans to ask for a recount in the state's GOP gubernatorial primary. Businessman Matt Bevin declared victory Thursday after a recanvass showed him maintaining an 83-vote lead. Comer's campaign would have to fund a full recount, if requested.

BIRD FLU DISRUPTS ECONOMIES: The Agriculture Department announced there have been 181 highly pathogenic avian influenza detections in the U.S. since Dec. 19, affecting more than 41 million birds and prompting dozens of countries around the world to levy trade restrictions on U.S. poultry exports. Nebraska authorities reported the state's fourth outbreak, Minnesota detected three more on turkey farms, and Iowa revealed another outbreak on an egg farm, according to the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

The university previously released findings that avian influenza would cause almost \$310 million in economic losses, stemming from idling poultry processing jobs and the ripple effect. The report showed that for every 100 jobs lost due to reduced poultry processing, nine are lost in the trucking industry, six are lost in wholesale trade and seven are lost in specialized poultry processing. Check out a summary of that study here:

<http://bit.ly/1FQg6lz> And see the CIDFP update here: <http://bit.ly/1d1WOyp>

MA'S INSTANT OATS:

- MyPlate is being translated into 18 more languages, the USDA says: <http://1.usa.gov/1Ksszf7>

- Turns out peptides produced by the American alligator could add to the arsenal of antibacterials in the fight against antibiotic resistance, Nature reports: <http://bit.ly/1LNwjia>

- The mystery of why there are holes in Swiss cheese has been solved, the AP reports: <http://bit.ly/1PQiOxZ>

CALENDAR -There are no events scheduled for today. Did we miss anything? Let MA know at agcalendar@politicopro.com.

THAT'S ALL FOR MA! See you again soon! In the meantime, drop your host and the rest of the team a line: btomson@politico.com and [@billtomson4](https://twitter.com/billtomson4); jhopkinson@politico.com and [@jennyhops](https://twitter.com/jennyhops); cpurdy@politico.com and [@chasepurdy](https://twitter.com/chasepurdy); hbottemiller@politico.com and [@hbottemiller](https://twitter.com/hbottemiller); mkorade@politico.com and [@mjkorade](https://twitter.com/mjkorade); and jhuffman@politico.com and [@jsonhuffman](https://twitter.com/jsonhuffman). You can also follow [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro) and [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag) on Twitter.

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